

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of controlling the environment of a field of plants, the
2 method comprising:
3 providing a movable cover;
4 moving the cover over the field of plants;
5 leaving the cover over the field of plants for an amount of time to control at
6 least one parameter of the environment of the field of plants;
7 removing the cover from at least a portion of the field of plants; and
8 harvesting from at least some of the plants from the field of plants.
- 1 2. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the at least one
2 parameter is from a group comprising temperature, atmosphere and light.
- 1 3. A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising supplying air
2 under the cover.
- 1 4. A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein the air is heated.
- 1 5. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein two covers are provided,
2 moved over the field of plants, left over the field of plants for the amount of time, and
3 removed from the field of plants.
- 1 6. A method in accordance with claim 4 further comprising supplying air
2 under the covers.
- 1 7. A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the air is heated.
- 1 8. A method in accordance with claim 4 further comprising supplying air
2 between the covers.
- 1 9. A method in accordance with claim 8 wherein the air is heated.
- 1 10. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein pesticide is provided
2 under the cover.
- 1 11. A method of facilitating harvesting of leafy plants, the method
2 comprising:

3 providing a movable cover;
4 moving the cover over a field of leafy plants prior to dawn of a day that
5 harvesting is desired;
6 leaving the cover over the field of leafy plants for an amount of time to control
7 at least one parameter of the environment of the field of leafy plants;
8 removing the cover from at least a portion of the field of leafy plants after
9 dawn of the day harvesting is desired; and
10 harvesting from at least some of the leafy plants from the field of leafy plants.

1 12. A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the leafy plants are at
2 least one of a group comprising lettuce, spinach, cabbage, baby leaves, baby lettuce and baby
3 spinach.

1 13. A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the at least one
2 parameter is from a group comprising temperature, atmosphere and light.

1 14. A method in accordance with claim 11 further comprising supplying
2 air under the cover.

1 15. A method in accordance with claim 14 wherein the air is heated.

1 16. A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein two covers are
2 provided, moved over the field of plants, left over the field of plants for the amount of time,
3 and removed from the field of plants.

1 17. A method in accordance with claim 16 wherein the covers comprise
2 plastic substantially 4 mils thick.

1 18. A method in accordance with claim 16 further comprising supplying
2 air under the covers.

1 19. A method in accordance with claim 18 wherein the air is heated.

1 20. A method in accordance with claim 16 further comprising supplying
2 air between the covers.

1 21. A method in accordance with claim 20 wherein the air is heated.

1 22. A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein pesticide is provided
2 under the cover.

1 23. A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the cover comprises
2 plastic substantially 4 mils thick.

1 24. A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the cover is removed in
2 twenty feet increments.

1 25. A method in accordance with claim 11 further comprising covering the
2 field of leafy plants with a shade cloth before harvesting.

1 26. A method of slowing growth of a field of plants, the method
2 comprising placing at least one cover over the plants to limit the amount light reaching the
3 plants.

1 27. A method in accordance with claim 26 wherein the cover comprises
2 shade cloth approximately 4 mils thick.

1 28. A method in accordance with claim 27 wherein the cover comprises
2 one of plastic or woven plastic.

1 29. A method of preventing ice formation in leaves in plants in a field, the
2 method comprising placing at least one cover over the plants prior to dawn of a day the plants
3 are desired to be harvested.

1 30. A method in accordance with claim 29 wherein the cover comprises
2 plastic.

1 31. A method in accordance with claim 30 wherein the cover is
2 approximately 8 mils thick.